
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5353

AN ACT REQUIRING STATE BUILDINGS TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the state building inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee to revise the State Building Code to require that, by January 1, 2021, within available appropriations, all existing state buildings open to the public be accessible by a sloped ramp and an automatically activated door. They must also contain at least one bathroom and elevator accessible to the physically handicapped.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The ADA is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Title II of the act requires states and local governments (public entities) to operate their services, programs, or activities so that, when viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities (28 CFR § 35.130). This does not require a public entity to (1) necessarily make each of its existing facilities accessible to the physically handicapped; (2) take any action that would threaten or destroy a property's historic significance; or (3) take any action that it can demonstrate would (a) fundamentally alter the nature of a service, program, or activity or (b) result in undue financial and administrative financial burdens (28 CFR § 35.150).

Codes and Standards Committee

This committee works with the state building inspector and state fire marshal to enforce the state building, fire safety, and fire prevention codes.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 5 (03/21/2013)